

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fifty-Third Annual Report

2012

The 2012 fiscal year has been an exceptional one for the Boston Street Railway Association. We ended the year with a significant general fund surplus and the largest end-of-year balance since 2000, largely because of a large increase in publication sales. Resale publications exceeded \$25,000, up 42% since last year. This success is even more significant, considering that we purchased a new computer and software for RollSign during this period.

While mentioning publications, our website and online store were both significantly upgraded. Our complete inventory is now available to everyone, resulting in sales of items not ordinarily in our catalog. A secondary benefit, but not insignificant are sales generated by searches on Google by entirely new customers.

During the year we attended the Amherst Railway Society's Big Railroad show in West Springfield, where we had excellent publications sales. In late April, we cosponsored the 2012 Boston Trolley and Transit Meet with three other rail and transit organizations, again achieving great sales.

In a related development, we provided considerable logistical support for the ERA 2012 Convention, held in Boston on the Labor Day weekend. Sales of our publications at this event were an unexpected spinoff that was quite rewarding.

We have made significant progress on our next publication, *Streetcar Lines of the Hub: The MTA and the T*, and we think that our members will enjoy this long awaited book.

Our overall membership statistics were similar to last year's, down slightly but exhibiting normal fluctuation in generally remaining stable.

RollSign enjoyed another blend of historical and contemporary articles, thanks to our volunteer staff and our many contributors. Jonathan Belcher's *Annual MBTA inventory* issue, and articles on the *100th Anniversary of the Red Line*, *Trolley lines in Somerville*, and the *Science Park/West End Modernization* were some of the highlights.

Our Entertainment Committee worked hard on the presentations we showed after our business meetings. These programs continue to draw appreciative audiences as the presenters come up with new topics. In recent years, the trend has been toward digital presentations, which has side benefits in providing spot sound and videos between still shots.

As always our Vice-President continues with corporate filings and papers, editing work for other officers, and managing official correspondence and emails.

The steelwork was completed in 2012 on Type 5 No. 5706. Next we will install the subfloor, and purchase and install new car wiring, piping, and air tanks. We expect to complete this work in 2013. We will then complete the car body.

The annual reports of our volunteer officers follow this summary. Their unwavering efforts supported by your dues and donations are what keep the BSRA going every day as we work to accomplish our ongoing goals and the completion of our iconic Type 5 streetcar, No. 5706.

Report of the Publications Director

It was another great year for the Publications Department, buoyed by our revamped website, online bookstore and the 2012 Boston Trolley & Transit Meet. We had record online sales last holiday season, which set the stage for strong publications sales all year long.

Our website and online store at www.thebsra.org, which was completely redesigned and expanded in Fall 2011, has made it possible for us to have our entire inventory of books, DVDs, RollSign back issues, and other odds-and-ends available for sale, rather than simply what will fit in our print catalogues. By way of Google searches, it also broadens our audience, and we have seen many sales from people who previously had not dealt with the BSRA. We then send BSRA literature to these customers, which help us get new members from around the country and the world.

We produced six print publications catalogues this year containing dozens of new items. Some of the most popular new titles this year included *Professor Pathfinder's Northeast Corridor Passenger Rail Map*, *The City Lines of the Lehigh Valley Transit Co.*, (DVD), *The Peter Witt Streetcars of Cleveland*, *San Francisco's Municipal Railway: MUNI*, and *London's Underground*—which sold so well that we, and the book's distributor, quickly ran out of stock! After a lengthy wait for more books to arrive from Europe by boat, we were finally able to fill back orders for this title in late September.

Our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, once again has proven to be an invaluable part of our operations, fulfilling all orders—mail and digital. Through mounds of back orders and summer heat, he donates his time every week to keep the orders moving, and the Association thanks him deeply.

In January, we once again staffed two tables at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. Volunteers Dana Frisbee, Nick Tomkavage, Paul Tomkavage, Bill Pollman, Ron Clough, Brad Clarke and Danny Cohen assisted our Publications Director at the show, and we thank them all for their efforts.

The BSRA also joined Seashore Trolley Museum, Bay State Society of Model Engineers, and the Boston Chapter of the NRHS to sponsor the 2012 Boston Trolley & Transit Meet. The meet was held April 27, 28 & 29 at the Holiday Inn in Brookline, Mass. and the BSSME's club room in Roslindale. The Holiday Inn's location right on the Beacon Street Green Line was ideal for a weekend of traction & transit models, historical presentations, displays, and book sales. BSRA

sales were great and were handled by the same crew as at West Springfield and Ryan and Tadd Anderson, Charlie Bahne, Chris Kelliher and Tom Athearn.

Work on new publications, *Route of the Minutemen* and *Streetcar Lines of the Hub: The MTA and the T* have been ongoing, with the latter picking up significant steam in 2012. In 2013, we also expect to launch the first stage of a brand new website that will focus on the history of transit in and around Boston—stay tuned!

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

We completed the second end of 5706 this year. As of this writing, the steel below the belt rail has almost completely been replaced. This is typical of restorations of lightweight cars from the 1920s, such as No. 5706. A repair to a 12-foot section of the letter board and steel wrapping around the bulkhead posts, which connect the central car body to the vestibules, is also done, and we are moving on to the subfloor. Before we can do this, we have to paint the floor beams and the subfloor itself.

We will follow with the installation of new wiring and air piping in the troughs that run above the floor on opposite sides of the car. Procurement and installation of new air tanks, the rebuilt compressor, resistors and remaining underfloor parts will be next, followed by the controllers, air brake and door controls and other vestibule equipment. We hope to complete this work in 2013, and in the following year, focus on completion of the car body, which will include installation of safety glass, the window sash, and the seats and doors. As all these parts are set in place they will be primed and painted.

The final phase of the project will include reworking the wheel and axle sets including installation of new steel tires on the wheels, and installation of the traction motors. Engineering design of a socket array for a working pantograph over an existing trolley pole assembly at one end of the car is planned along with facilities for handicap access.

To accomplish all we have done, we have raised more than \$214,000.00, thanks to your, our many members and friends. The completion of our Type 5 is a major goal of the Association, and your donations and support are making this a reality, allowing this worthy project to continue uninterrupted. For this we are deeply appreciative and thank you for your sustained assistance.

Report of the ROLLSIGN Director

The Association published six issues of ROLLSIGN, all with color covers. There were 99 color and 16 black and white photos, and 14 drawings and maps, on 112 pages.

Jonathan Belcher's Annual MBTA Vehicle Inventory was featured in the January/February edition. Remaining issues included: LOWELL – National Historical Park; Trolley Line Expansion in Lowell; Wonderland Intermodal Transit Center; Fairmount Corridor Branch Bridge Replacement; "To Lechmere and Beyond"; Somerville's Trolley Lines; Scenes from the 2012 Trolley Meet; Red Line Celebrates 100th Anniversary; Saugus River Drawbridge; Worcester Transit Hub; Mass. Regional Transit Authorities; MBTA Vehicle Inventory; Science Park/West End Modernization; Trackless Trolleys

around Harvard Square; Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum; Bridge of Flowers Flood; and Shore Line Trolley Museum Flood.

Charles Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Bradley Clarke, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Barry Steinberg and George Zeiba are all part of our regular staff, which keeps the publication on track year round. There were many other contributors to ROLLSIGN as well, and we offer our sincere thanks to Ed Anderson, James Schantz, John Smatlak, Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Robert Barrows, Len Batchelder, George Chiasson, Joseph Diecidue, Christopher Kelliher, Mike Lennon, Joe Lynch, Larry Mack, Larry Mills, Nick Tomkavage, Michael Prescott, Mary-Grace Lenihan, Dennis Pacelli, and Paul Joyce.

Report of the Secretary

Our mailing list now numbers 823. Since October 1, 2011, we have added 34 new members and lost 55 due to attrition, including 14 deceased, 3 resignations, and 38 who did not renew, for a net loss of 21 paid members. Our membership and ROLLSIGN circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Regular	435	430
Intermediate	8	11
Associate	279	263
Subscriber	82	79
Honorary	8	8
Complimentary	<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>
Totals	845	823

Report of the Vice-President

During the past year, the Vice President has handled routine member correspondence, assisted at monthly business meetings and written the press releases for the meetings and entertainment. He has assisted the other officers and directors in reviewing drafts, reports and financial statements including the annual government filings of the Treasurer. He has prepared drafts regarding association policy, and standard responses for frequently asked questions from both written and electronic correspondence.

The Vice-President prepares and submits the Annual Corporate report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, prepares the credentials for the Association's representative at the ARM Annual meeting and has primary responsibility for monitoring our website email, responding to routine questions, and forwarding communications to the appropriate officers, directors and staff. Finally, the Vice-President prepares the report of the Nominating Committee and documents for the tellers to use in tabulating votes at the annual meeting. He also provided support at the Trolley and Transit Meet, staffing the front desk and the BSRA sales booth.

Report of the Entertainment Chair

Lucius Chiaraviglio continues as Entertainment Chair, arranging shows from presenters and organizing the Entertainment Calendar. Our Entertainment AV Manager Dana Frisbee sets up equipment before each show, making them

possible, and remains after each one to ensure that the room is in good order when we leave.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all our program presenters at our 2010-2011 meetings. In addition, before meetings we show traction videos (VHS and DVD), and we invite members to bring pre-meeting entertainment. The programs and presenters are listed below.

October 1, 2011. R. Allan Pommer's '70s-'80s Film Potpourri. R. Allan Pommer showed films from the late 1970s to the early 1980s in Super 8 format with sound. Reel 1 showed us MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak at South Station, Back Bay Station before its 1980s rebuild, and heavy rail service rerouted to the Dorchester line for Southwest Corridor construction. Reel 2 took us to New Jersey for footage of New Jersey Transit's GG1 locomotives in their last day of service in 1983 around South Amboy, followed by their fleet in transition from GG1 and diesel haulage to EMU operation. Reel 3 took us to Lowell, MA for the beginnings of the current streetcar operation from the diesel-powered "Whistler" to electrification and installation of the Gomaco replica open cars still used today.

November 5, 2011. Pittsburgh in Transition. George Chiasson presented slides and a historical lesson on Pittsburgh, building a bridge between the time covered by Leonard Bachelder, Fred Maloney, and others to the present day; this started in the 1970s, shortly after Port Authority Transit had taken over Pittsburgh railways, substituting many streetcar lines and running PCCs on the remainder, and proceeded to modern light rail 1984, with PCC service being phased out to 1993. Finally, he showed us modern light rail service in 2004 and 2006. All along we saw the evolution of Pittsburgh Light Rail service as the agency struggled to adapt to declining funding and population.

December 3, 2011. Scenes around Greater Boston: An Intermediate Member Presents. Ryan Anderson showed us a variety of transportation from the Greater Boston area, featuring MBTA and regional transit authority equipment (of all modes), along with many photos of other transportation in this area: Amtrak, private buses (including intercity buses, Longwood Medical Area, and university/college systems), and Pan Am Railways and CSX freight in the MBTA Commuter Rail service area.

January 7, 2012. An Italian Outing. Herb Pence showed us his trip to Italy in the summer of 2011, starting in Castiglione, Fiorentino and Florence with its very modern Tramvia line and heavy rail service. Then he took us to Venice, including the new people mover and the Vaporetti system (serving as buses, but running in water). Finally, he took us to Trieste, with its unusual tram system hybridized with a funicular, and its extensive railway museum. All along, he gave us historical insight.

February 4, 2012. Loring Lawrence takes us to Greece. Greece is one of the birthplaces of ancient civilization, and is also home to diverse railways, trams, buses, electric trolley buses, and an extensive ferry system linking the Aegean Islands with each other and the mainland. Loring showed us these from his travels there in September - October 2008 (and some photos from 1984), in context with the great sights of ancient civilization, with detailed historical and geographic information and a handout about the transport systems, fielding numerous questions during the show. Like so many of the relics of ancient civilization, many of these transportation systems are disappearing as Greece once again falls on hard times.

Final Remarks

The Association has enjoyed a remarkable year in 2012 thanks to impressive publication sales, successful trade shows, a solid year of *RollSign*, great meeting entertainment, significant accomplishments on the 5706 project, and the ongoing support of you, our members. Fiscal 2013 promises

Respectfully submitted,

The Directors and Officers of the,
BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bradley H. Clarke, President and Chairman
Thaddeus S. Anderson, Secretary
Thomas Athearn, Vice-President and Clerk of Corporation
Charles Bahne, Treasurer and Director
Jonathan Belcher, Director at Large
Lucius Chiaraviglio, Entertainment Chair
Ronald Clough, Publications Manager
Daniel R. Cohen, Director at Large
Dana Frisbee, Entertainment AV Manager
James E. Gately, Librarian
David F. Harling, Director of Car Restoration
Daniel T. Lenihan, *ROLLSIGN* Director
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director
Nicholas Tomkavage, Office Administrator

March 3, 2012. The Fab Four Part Two - American Traction in the '50s and '60s. Following up on Part One presented last June, George Chiasson showed us scenes of Newark, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Chicago from 1950 through 1969, including many images from the late Gerry Landau and the late Joe Diaz of Chicago. Views included trolley and rapid transit systems of that era.

April 7, 2012. A Pennsylvania Double Feature (actually a Pennsylvania & Chicago 2 1/2 Feature). First, Donald Nevin presented Traction in Pennsylvania from Volume 1 of the Singing Wire series from Herron Rail Video, featuring Pennsylvania cities from Philadelphia through Pittsburgh, showing streetcars, interurban service, and elevated trains. Tadd Anderson presented Philadelphia Trolleys II, a Ray Nielsen Production from GPS Video, of the Philadelphia Transportation Company and the transition to SEPTA, from PCCs to the Kawasaki streetcars still running today. Donald Nevin then showed another Ray Nielsen Production from GPS Video - Chicago Surface and Elevated Lines - of the history of Chicago's streetcar system and rapid transit lines, including the second life of the retired streetcars as rapid transit fleet components.

May 5, 2012. From India to New York. Eric Oszustowicz showed slides of his trip to India in January and February 2011. He showed urban and long-distance passenger rail and buses in Kolkata (Calcutta, also showing tramways), Mumbai (Bombay), and Bengaluru (Bangalore). Then he continued last year's New York historical perspective: buses acquired from 1956 into the 1960s and the New York City subway (R-10s to R-30s), along with current events photos.

June 2, 2012. Brazil, Part 1. Before the meeting, Donald Nevin ran Trolleys of New England Volume 2: Southern New England, a Seashore Trolley Museum VHS tape, to show us 1927 vintage ex-Worcester (MA) Osgood-Bradley streetcars running in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In the show proper, we saw part 1 of Don's travels to South America in 1962, 1974, and 1984, starting with a steamboat trip from Buenos Aires (Argentina) and a brief rail trip from Uruguay to Brazil. Next was Porto Alegre (with ex-US streetcars), Santos, and São Paulo. We saw many Brazilian trams and intercity rail, including oil and wood-burning steam locomotives, and three incarnations of the Serra (the inclined section of the São Paulo Railway). As a final treat we got to see the unique Railway of the city of Rio Grande do Sul.

July 14, 2012. The East Coaster. Christopher Kelliher took us on a transit tour of the east coast of the United States. We had stops in New England, including Seashore Trolley Museum, Boston, Maine, western Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, upstate New York, New York City, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington DC, and Florida, plus some west coast bonus photos. We saw heavy rail and rapid transit equipment (including interior and cab photos), buses, museums, and shop/yard photos.

August 4, 2012. Bradley Clarke's Boston Underground Travels, Revisited. Bradley presented various abandoned tunnels and stations of Boston's transit system from his underground tours in 2009 and 2011, including video crews in action for Authentic Entertainment/Travel Channel and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Film Bureau, as they made videos of these sites and work crews in action, and showed us excerpts of the videos. Finally, he showed us an 8-mm film of Boston streetcars from 1967 to 1969, featuring the Green Line A branch up to its last day of service.

September 8, 2012. Boston Transit Scenes: 2002 - 2012. Nick Tomkavage presented a combination slide and digital show of MBTA scenes taken in the last decade, including maintenance vehicles, carhouses, BSRA fan trips, and a few curiosities. We saw Boeing LRVs, Flyer trolleybuses, No. 4 East Boston cars, and the North Station Elevated, also including photos from Stuart Spina.

further progress on Type 5 5706, a new historical website, and further progress on a new book. If the level of support that we have received in 2012 continues from so many quarters, we have every reason to believe the 2013 will be an equal success.

**Boston Street Railway Association
Annual Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2012
(after adjustments)**

General Fund			
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	October 1, 2011	\$3,674.02
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			
Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$10,966.74	
Dues, Regular		\$10,825.00	
Dues, Intermediate		\$220.00	
Dues, Associate		\$5,280.00	
Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,216.00	
Postage Surcharges from Members		\$170.00	
Roll Sign, Retail		\$741.18	
Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$348.00	
BSRA Publications, Retail		\$2,669.44	
BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$1,894.80	
Publications, Resale		\$25,481.00	
Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$932.14	
Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$2,410.48	
Fantrip & Trolley Meet Income		\$629.48	
Other General Fund Income		\$24.42	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2012:			\$63,808.68
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			
Management & General Expenses		\$4,924.55	
Roll Sign Printing		\$12,102.00	
Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$4,044.10	
Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$3,402.29	
BSRA Publications Printing & Production		\$0.00	
Other BSRA Publications Expenses		\$0.00	
Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$16,913.22	
Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$6,347.37	
Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$954.64	
Publications Shipping Expense		\$2,302.57	
Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$4,389.48	
Monthly Meeting Expense		\$3,000.00	
Library Expense		\$1,384.25	
Fantrip & Trolley Meet Expense		\$740.41	
Fundraising Expense		\$739.29	
Refunds Paid & Returned Checks		\$0.00	
Other General Fund Expense		\$50.00	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2012:			\$61,294.17
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			\$2,514.51
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	September 30, 2012	\$6,188.53
5706 Fund			
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	October 1, 2011	\$31,566.44
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			
Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$13,662.09	
Interest, 5706 Fund		\$103.14	
Other 5706 Fund Income		\$0.00	
TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2012:			\$13,765.23
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			
Car 5706 Restoration Expense		\$11,255.00	
Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$320.00	
Car 5706 Project Management		\$341.16	
Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$1,832.13	
Other 5706 Fund Expense		\$0.00	
TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2012:			\$13,748.29
5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012:			\$16.94
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	September 30, 2012	\$31,583.38
COMBINED CASH ON HAND:	September 30, 2012		\$37,771.91
PROOF OF BALANCE:			
Cash		\$0.00	
Checking		\$5,654.08	
Money Market		\$31,441.85	
Savings		\$355.99	
PayPal		\$319.99	
Square		\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$37,771.91	VARIANCE: \$0.00
5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:		\$214,399.95	